

MEETING OF MILITARY REPRESENTATIVES
HELD 1 MAY 1945

At 1000, 1 May 1945, Mr. McCloy met with the military representatives and reviewed the matters discussed at the meeting of the advisers with the delegates held on the evening of 30 April 1945, and the discussions held by the United States representatives with the British, Chinese, French and Russians. The following were present at the latter meeting:

England:

George Tomlinson, Parliamentary Secretary
to the Ministry of Labor.
The Viscount Cranborne, Secretary of State.
A. H. Poynton, Colonial Office.
Major General R. I. C. Jacob
E. D. K. Owen, Foreign Office

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 11652, Sec. 3(E) and 5(D) of (E)
NND 740062
By ERS NARS, Date 2-8-74

U. S.

John J. McCloy, Asst. Sec. of War
Artemus L. Gates, Asst. Sec. of Navy.
Abe Fortas, Under Sec. of Interior
Cmdr. Harold Stassen, U. S. A.
Mr. Benjamin Gerig

France:

Mr. Paul Magliar, Ambassador

Russia:

Arkadi Aleksandrovich Sobolev.

China:

V. K. Wellington Koo, Ambassador to Great
Britain.
Wang Chung-Hui, Sec. General of Supreme Nat'l.
Defense Council.
Lin Chieh, Minister, Chinese Embassy, Wash. D. C.

A question was raised as to the meaning of the phrase, "There may be designated in the trusteeship arrangement strategic area or areas ——" (Par. 6). The question was raised as to who will do the designating. A further point was raised as to the meaning of "States directly concerned", in paragraph four. The French text on the point, it was said, is more precise. The consensus seemed to be that the English text should be authoritative, inasmuch as the French text was only a translation of the English, and it was agreed that an effort would be made to prepare a more exact statement in French.

In regard to the statement that it would be a matter for subsequent agreement as to which territories would be included within strategic areas, the point was raised as to who would agree. It was pointed out that the parties concerned would enter into such agreements and that this matter is probably one for consideration at any peace conferences which may be held later and should not be considered at the San Francisco Conference.

Lord Cranborne and Mr. Sobolev desired to know what territories would be affected by the trusteeship arrangement. Lord Cranborne stated that he understood this document would be applicable only to dependent areas. Mr. McCloy pointed out that it was so drafted as to include any areas detached from an enemy state and possibly would be applicable to the Ruhr or Lampedusa, for example. (Note: The language involved was agreed upon at Yalta).

The French stated that they could not understand how any general agreement on this matter could be concluded unless it was examined in relation to territories which might be affected.

Mr. Stassen at this point in the discussion, urged that speed was important, as the position of sponsoring powers had to be available for presentation to the Conference not later than Friday. Mr. Sobolev said that inasmuch as the matter of trusteeships was not included in the Dumbarton Oaks proposals, he considered that more time would have to be taken in working this point out and that the Friday deadline might not be acceptable. Lord Cranborne and France agreed with this position.

The group agreed that the matter of trusteeships would be considered next Thursday at 2030. Lord Cranborne pointed out that he doubted whether the British would be able to define their position by that time because it was unlikely that they could get word from London by then. The Prime Minister's spokesman on this subject, Lord Stanley, is not at the Conference. It was agreed that no statement would be made to the press with regard to the actual discussion itself, but that the press would be informed of the fact of the meeting and that trusteeships are under consideration. Mr. Stassen will obtain a ruling from the Steering Committee as to whether or not more time can be given to the question of trusteeships or whether the Friday deadline must be met.

There was general agreement that strategic areas should fall under the powers of the Security Council.

Mr. Kane at the 1 May meeting of the military representatives, raised the point that strategic areas should include not only land areas but also ocean areas. The dangers of this position were pointed out and it was the consensus that it would be a mistake to extend the concept beyond land areas.

The meeting of the military representatives then continued the discussion and brought out the following points:

1. A Senate Committee representing the Military Affairs Committee, is coming to San Francisco for the primary purpose of discussing trusteeships. Mr. Stettinius has expressed some concern about this visit but it was thought by the military representatives that they could be given adequate assurance that the United States'

position is fully protected under the proposals which have been submitted to the four sponsoring powers.

2. Mr. McCloy stated that panels of all commissions and committees are now ready. Russia has interposed opposition to Argentina having the chairman or rapporteur on any commission or committee. This position will possibly be supported, as the principal point of Argentina's representation has been won and there seems little reason in our dealing with Russia to rub salt in an open wound.

3. The Trusteeship Committee has as its Chairman the head of the New Zealand Delegation,--Mr. Fraser. The Luxembourg representative is Rapporteur. Mr. Hickerson considered the above arrangement satisfactory.

Mr. Stettinius will meet with members of the sponsoring powers in an effort to straighten out the problem of Argentina.

4. Mr. McCloy considered that thought should be given to the question of whether the military representatives should advise Mr. Stettinius to enter into discussions as to specific bases. He said that the British and French are, at this time, sympathetic to the United States' position and that, from that point of view, these discussions would be timely. Any discussions of specific bases would, of course, not be a part of the Conference itself. Mr. Bidault would probably go so far as to discuss the position of United States interests in New Caledonia, and might be agreeable to the United States obtaining rights in that area, provided French honor was not involved by the French flag being lowered. The War Minister in London expressed that view to Mr. McCloy in a recent conversation. If this question is postponed, it is possible that the French and British position, with regard to United States interests, may be less sympathetic than now. Mr. Gates said that he thought it might be all right for Mr. Stettinius to make off-the-record talks of this kind.

General Embick and Admiral Hepburn stated that they considered such talks untimely as they would probably leak out and stigmatize the work of the Conference as a peace conference, thereby prejudicing the primary purpose of the conference. Admiral Hepburn said that if we could get frank expressions from others as to what their interests are, it might be helpful. Admiral Willson said that we might well find ourselves discussing taboo boundary line and territorial questions and General Embick pointed out that the whole question of bases in South America might be opened up with very dangerous results. It was the consensus, as expressed by General Fairchild, that the United States should listen sympathetically to any thoughts that any other nations might have to offer but that we should avoid any specific discussions.

5. Before leaving Washington, Mr. McCloy discussed J. C. S. 1313 with Mr. Stimson, and Mr. Stimson expressed the view that everything possible should be done to strengthen regional arrangements in the Western Hemisphere. Mr. Stimson further thought that we should go no further than the Dumbarton Oaks proposals in weakening the Monroe Doctrine. In setting up a world organization, he said we should not hesitate to be illogical if a position of that kind is in accord with United States interests. Mr. Stimson was in complete agreement with the J. C. S. 1313 as amended as was also Mr. Forrestal. The amendment to J. C. S. 1313 as proposed by Admiral King was discussed at length. It was agreed that "wherever" really means "whenever" or "in any case".

6. Mr. McCloy pointed out that "Fortune" has recently published certain proposals with regard to the Dumbarton Oaks proposals and he considered it desirable that these proposals should be studied because pressure may be brought to bear regarding certain ones of them. Colonel Bonesteel mentioned that at a meeting held yesterday with Mr. Johnson and the group from the State Department, there was discussed the United States position regarding regional arrangements outside the Western Hemisphere. The French proposals seek to put bi-lateral treaties in the same category with regional arrangements and this is a matter which has not been adequately dealt with by the United States representatives. It was the consensus that everything possible should be done to strengthen the regional arrangements within the Western Hemisphere, even if we might find ourselves in a position which is not altogether logical.